



March 24, 2004

Pair plead guilty to Ecstasy trafficking

Bernard Tribble, of Providence, and **Bryan Burgess**, of Pawtucket, have pleaded guilty to federal charges of trafficking in Ecstasy. Tribble also admitted trafficking in cocaine and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty pleas, which were entered during separate hearings yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence. Tribble, 33, of 139 Hendrick Street, Providence, and Burgess, 26, of 242 Manton Street, Pawtucket, have been detained at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, since their arrest on January 30.

At the plea hearings, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that Tribble and Burgess made a series of Ecstasy sales to an undercover Pawtucket Police detective working with the **Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force**. On six occasions between November and January, the undercover agent arranged with Burgess to buy a quantity of Ecstasy. On each of those occasions, Burgess either obtained the Ecstasy from Tribble, or brought the agent to Tribble to complete the deal. The deals transpired at various locations in Providence and Woonsocket. The agent bought a total of 1,038 Ecstasy pills for \$9,950.

Agents arrested Tribble and Burgess on January 30 as they were arranging to sell the undercover agent an additional 400 Ecstasy pills. A search of Tribble's apartment at Hendrick

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Street turned up about 108 grams of cocaine, 108 Ecstasy pills and a 9 millimeter pistol.

Both men pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute Ecstasy and six counts of distributing Ecstasy. Tribble also pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute Ecstasy, possessing with intent to distribute cocaine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The statutory maximum penalties for each of the Ecstasy and cocaine trafficking offenses is 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The defendants' sentences will be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines that take into account such factors as the specific nature of an offense and the defendants' criminal background.

The **Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rogers is prosecuting it.

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Contact: 401-528-5224

E-mail: thomas.connell@usdoj.gov